

# The International Journal of Rural Criminology

## Editor's Introduction – Volume 2, Issue 1

This issue of IJRC is unique for one special reason. Each article is based on crime in a different country. The lead off article, by Kerry Carrington (Queensland University of Technology) and associates, considers the impact of social and environmental change on violence within families living in agricultural communities of Queensland, Australia (pages 3-24). Traveling to the other side of the world, readers will find Vania Ceccato and Adriann Uittenbogaard (Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm) discussing the results of their research on environmental and wildlife crime in rural Sweden (pages 26-52). Jumping across the Atlantic Ocean to the U.S. state of New York, Barbara Rockell (St. John Fisher College) describes her findings from a study of crime and drug abuse by women living in four rural counties bordering the city of Rochester (pages 53-74). Back across the Atlantic in the opposite direction, readers will arrive in Kenya to read about the crime experiences of agriculturalists there, based on a study by Emmanuel K. Bunei (Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Nairobi) and his colleagues (pages 75-100). Reversing direction and traveling for a third time over the Atlantic Ocean, but now to Canada, scholarly adventurers will come upon the article by Savvas Lithopoulos (Public Safety Canada, Ottawa) and Rick Ruddell (University of Regina) on issues associated with policing of Aboriginal communities (pages 101-125). Finally, we turnaround once again and travel back over the Atlantic Ocean to learn about forms of illegal entrepreneurship among rural inhabitants of the United Kingdom, based on a typology of criminal offenders developed by Robert Smith (Aberdeen Business School) (pages 126-145). Indeed, this is a lot of mileage, not only geographically, but more importantly, in terms of topics and issues of interest to rural scholars.

*The International Journal of Rural Criminology* will publish articles both qualitative and quantitative, and from a variety of theoretical perspectives. A key deficiency of past rural crime scholarship is its mostly descriptive, atheoretical nature. This hinders the generalizability of results from rural research, stifles incorporation of the rural into mainstream criminological literature, and precludes the possibility of discovering weaknesses, both conceptual and substantive, within classic forms and contemporary expressions of criminology theory, whose origins, considerations, and applications remain largely focused on the urban context.

Submissions that deal with rural crime issues beyond a few “English-speaking” countries are most appreciated. The goal is to be truly international, and not dominated by rural crime scholarship solely within the Australian, British, Canadian, and US contexts. Readers should keep in mind that nearly 50 percent of the world’s population is rural, a percentage that far exceeds the proportion of rural-focused articles in mainline criminology journals.

Finally, this journal’s editorial focus does not attempt to restrict submissions in any other way, except that a manuscript must be mainly focused on issues of crime and criminal justice in the rural context. *Merely putting the word “rural” in the title and then ignoring the cultural,*

*economic, human, political and social dimensions of rural crime is a form of tokenism insufficient to merit consideration for publication in IJRC.*

The goal is to publish the **International Journal of Rural Criminology** at least once, and possibly twice, each year. Submissions are most welcome at any time, and readers even more so! Manuscripts of any length are welcome, but as a general guideline, submissions should be no longer than 12,000 words (including tables, references, and endnotes). I strongly suggest that prospective authors submit original drafts that adhere to a formatting style for text and for citations as found in the current set of articles – Volume 2, Issue 1.

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